

**Conservation Commission Minutes
Tuesday, November 13, 2012
Town Hall Meeting Room, Old Town Rd.
5:30pm**

Present: Members: Chair Ned Phillips Jr., Vice Chair Fred Leeder, Marea Mott, Leslie Slate, David Roosa and Donald Littlefield. Absent: John Hopf. Also present was Terri Chmiel, Administrative Assistant for the recording of the minutes.

Call to Order

Chair Mr. Phillips, Jr. called the meeting to order at 5:34p.m.

Approval of minutes for September 11, 2012, October 2, 2012 and October 9, 2012

The approval of the minutes was deferred to the December meeting.

**Discuss the effects of Hurricane Sandy with regards to beach and dune damage
Beach Erosion SAMP**

Elliot Taubman, Attorney representing the Environmental and Energy Law Committee of the Rhode Island Bar Association presented. Mr. Taubman presented a draft copy of the proposed new section for CRMC (Salt Pond Region Special Area Management Plan). Mr. Taubman explained CRMC will be study the following three areas: Matunuck, Misquamicut and Block Island. The study is based on an experimental plan in eliminating beach erosion. Mr. Taubman asked for a review of the draft with comments and or suggestions. The Commission was in consensus to be a proactive vehicle in initiating the experimental plan.

Snow Fencing

The Commission discussed the benefits of the snow fencing slowing down the destruction to the dunes during Hurricane Sandy. Discussion ensued for funding in purchasing additional snow fencing; in which case, the Commission will appeal to the Town Council. Mr. Littlefield discussed problems with deer on the dunes, advantage of dumping brush along the berm and the livelihood of the beaches. Mr. Phillips, Jr., discussed installing 4x4 pressure treated cedar posts to hold the snow fencing and Mr. Leeder suggested enlisting volunteers.

Mr. Phillips, Jr. will contact Nancy Dodge, Town Manager to inquire where the sand from Scotch Beach parking area is being transported.

Update on Tree Preservation and Protection Guidelines.

Mr. Phillips reported the Town Council is in receipt of the guidelines and most likely will be considered in January 2013. No action was taken.

Adjourn

Mr. Leeder asked why the Zoning Board of Review did not request an advisory from the Commission regarding the new construction on the property formally owned by Peter Swienton. Mr. Leeder remarked on the clearing of brush at Avonlea and the pond near painted rock. He also commented on finding non native prickly pear pads on the beach at Dories Cove.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:11p.m. in a motion by Mr. Littlefield and seconded by Mr. Phillips.

6 Ayes (Phillips, Leeder, Slate, Littlefield, Mott and Roosa)

0 Nays

1 Absent (Hopf)

Respectfully submitted

Terri L. Chmiel

Minutes approved: December 11, 2012